

*Autism Committee Minutes
March 11, 2009*

Present: Lori Kay, ABXIII; Sabrina Daneshvar, Autism Therapies; Debbie Barrow, parent; Robbin Kulek, Area Board XIII; Cherri Cary, SDASA; Debbie Marshall, ABXIII, Wendy Smith, HGH, Alice Eng, parent

Meeting was called to order and introductions were made.

A motion to approve the February 13, 2009 minutes was made by Lori Kay and a second was made by Sabrina Daneshvar. The minutes were approved.

An update on the POST video project was provided by committee member Sabrina Daneshvar. Sabrina and her co-worker Erica Holding from Autism Spectrum Therapies represented the Autism Committee at the three day POST planning/training meeting regarding developing an Autism training video for law enforcement/first responders. The committee has volunteered to assist with the project to ensure the video represents behavioral issues associated with our community. Sabrina spoke about SB 1531 which states the following:

13515.35. (a) The commission shall, upon the next regularly scheduled review of a training module relating to persons with disabilities, create and make available on DVD and may distribute electronically a course on how to recognize and interact with persons with autistic spectrum disorders. This course shall be designed for, and made available to, peace officers who are first responders to emergency situations.

(b) The training course shall be developed by the commission in consultation with the Department of Developmental Services and appropriate community, local, or other state organizations and agencies that have expertise in the area of autism spectrum disorders. The commission shall make the course available to law enforcement agencies in California.

(c) In addition to the duties contained in subdivisions (a) and (b), the commission shall distribute, as necessary, a training bulletin via the Internet to law enforcement agencies participating in the commission's program on the topic of autism spectrum disorders.

In attendance at the POST training were representatives from:, ASA-East Coast, San Diego Police Department, the Department of Developmental Services, high level police officials, the Mind Institute and various other agencies and parents.

During the three day meeting the team developed a roadmap of what to include in the training, some of the topics were: recognition or signs of a disability, what is the role of

the first responder, creating partnerships, and problem solving scenarios. The next planning meeting will be held in April and the filming will begin in June.

24 hours of training for law enforcement is required every two years; however the training topics are selected by the individuals and this new POST training video will go into the library of options to meet the training requirement. The committee thought it would be more effective if they could get this new training video to be included as a mandatory element toward an Officer's overall POST training series.

The committee had a discussion on strategies to have the training become mandatory. While the topic of training law enforcement on issues surrounding individuals with autism isn't mandated by the senate bill perhaps within the local jurisdictions the committee could make an impact by having local entities require the training. Cherri spoke about her connection to the CHP through ASA and encouraged the utilization of a shorter film such as the new Dennis Debault video to heighten awareness and stimulate discussion as officials from local law enforcement agencies are approached regarding the training mandate.

Robbin shared an incident regarding a parent that called her about how her son was injured due to an encounter with law enforcement. Situations like this one show the need for additional law enforcement trainings.

Wendy reported she attends meeting with AIS and law enforcement, perhaps this could be another venue for sharing the training information and to promote the issue of mandatory inclusion of disability awareness in the training protocol.

Jessica spoke about outreach training to parents on the issue of crisis.

Key points that are addressed were:

- *When crisis occurs is everyone safe*
- *What resources are available?*
- *PERT, Safety Alert*
- *What are the options?*
- *When to have someone else step in*

Basic training points:

- *Verbal de-escalation*
- *Physical proximity*

Committee recommended working with your service coordinator to put together a resource list.

The group discussed a basic training format that could be offered to family members who have a child that could be considered high risk. The outcome of the training would

result in the development of a safety plan. There was a discussion of the safety plan being tied to the IPP process.

Targeted people could be individuals who:

- *Have over 32 hours of respite*
- *Had a behavior referral*
- *Request training*
- *Use medication*
- *Have seizures*
- *Are within an identified age range*

Further work would include the development of key elements to include in a crisis plan.

Key Element Discussion Points:

- *In looking at the issue of crisis management take some time to look at effectiveness of current services and identify what is missing (emergency beds)*
- *Work with psychiatric facilities to more effectively meet the needs of individuals with autism.*
- *Jessica stated she is very interested in helping to foster connections to the psychiatric hospitals.*
- *Victoria has connections with CAPs and might be able to help with getting a foot in the front door.*
- *It was agreed there is a need to meet with SDRC to discuss the issues and create an action plan.*
- *Dr. Rochelle Voth is currently working at UCSD and might be able to assist with the planning process.*
- *Part of the strategy identified would be to work with one facility on creating stronger and more effective support strategies for children who are in need of hospitalization. There was consensus this would be especially helpful if a child needs to be in a temporary placement while their medications are being adjusted, with the ultimate goal of returning home.*

Everyone agreed the committee's primary focus should be to work with SDRC to develop an adolescent crisis facility in San Diego County. It was decided a e-mail would be sent to Dr. Lynn Gregory, SDRC to invite her participation in the discussions surrounding the development of the current CAPS facility to meet the needs of adolescents in crisis. Cherri Carry agreed to send the e-mail to Dr. Gregory requesting a meeting on this topic.

Information on the status of the state budget was distributed.

The next meeting will be held April 17th at the Mission Valley Library at 12:30. It was agreed that due to the Spring break the meeting would be held on the third Friday in April.